

Rondeletiola minor (Naef, 1912)

(Cephalopoda : Sepioidea)

New Record for the Central East Atlantic

BY

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(2 Text figures)

TWELVE SPECIMENS of *Rondeletiola minor* (Naef, 1912) have been collected during the ATLOR VI survey off NW Africa on the research ship "Cornide de Saavedra" in October 1975.

Gear type: bottom trawl

Mesh size: 30 mm in the cod end and 10 mm in cod end cover

Position: 25° 15' N-25° 48' N, initial and final latitudes, and 15° 27' W

Depth: 340-365 m

Type of bottom: sand

Temperature: 13-14° C

Salinity: 35.95-35.79‰ (MANRIQUEZ & RUCABADO, 1976)

The characteristics of specimens collected agree with the descriptions of NAEF (1923) and ADAM (1952).

The material comprises six females ranging from 10 to 14.5 mm dorsal mantle length and six males from 10 to 15 mm DML. Some of the males and females (13-15 mm sizes) were mature. In Figures 1 and 2 the beak and radula of a male of 10 mm DML are shown.

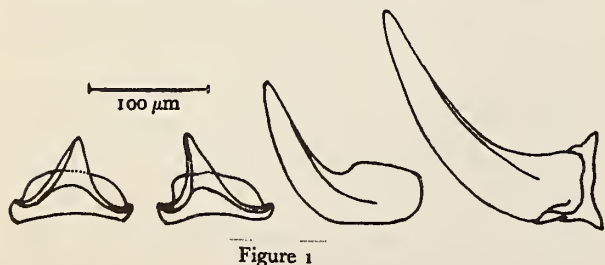


Figure 1

Radula of a male *Rondeletiola minor* of 10 mm DML

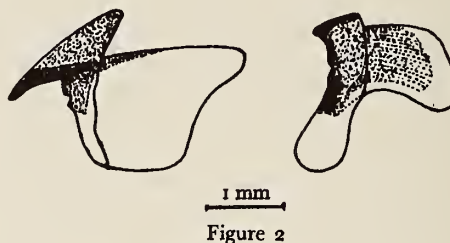


Figure 2

Beak of the same specimen

This is the first time that *Rondeletiola minor* has been recorded from this part of the Atlantic. It occurs in the North Atlantic, as proved by a specimen which CHUN (1914) named "*Sepiola rondeleti*" (vide NAEF, 1923). DEGNER (1925) collected a male of 15 mm DML off the coast of Portugal (37° 37' N and 10° 17' W). ADAM (1952) reported taking 2 males and 3 females from 6 to 12.7 mm DML off the South African coast; three of these were caught between 34 and 150 m depths, and the other two were attracted by light at the surface. PÉREZ-GÁNDARAS (1980) reported taking specimens near the Galicean coast (NW of Spain) at 100-200 m depth off the Ria of Vigo.

NAEF (1923) states that *Rondeletiola minor* occurs in the Bay of Naples (Mediterranean Sea) at a depth of 150-200 m on mud and fine sand, that it appears in masses (about 5000 specimens were caught on one occasion) and that it is the most common species of Sepiolidae in the area. WIRZ (1958) reports a male fished at Blanes (Catalonian Sea in the Mediterranean) in 1957, that was exam-

ined by MORALES (1962), who found the specimen in poor condition. A male without spermatophores caught between 400-600 m depth and an immature female collected between 550-640 m in the Port-Vendres region were examined by MANGOLD-WIRZ (1963), who noted that *R. minor* is a rare species in the Catalanian Sea. It occurs also south of Sicily: ADAM (1966) reported two males of 15 and 17 mm DML that were collected SW of Lampedusa island at 42 fathoms [75.6 m] depth, and to the north of Malta at 110-120 fathoms [198-216 m]. BONNET (1973) cited it off the Libyan and Tunisian coasts, and LUMARE (1974) cited a mature male captured at 90 m depth on a muddy bottom in the Tyrrhenian Sea, associated with *Sepiolo ligulata* and *Sepietta oweniana*.

The only place that this species has been found abundantly is in the Bay of Naples. In the other areas cited it seems to be rare, but I think that, because of the small size and behaviour of the species, it has not been well sampled with the gear used.

The distribution of *Rondeletiola minor*, on the basis of present knowledge, includes the Central and Western Mediterranean Sea and the entire Eastern Atlantic, from NW of Spain to South Africa.

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